

**VILLAGE OF GRAFTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2026  
7:30 PM**

Present for roll call were Romes, Campbell, Kitts, Kilgore, and McCort. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Barnhart, Mayor Duke, Village Administrator Andrew Lipian, and Law Director RJ Budway.

**Minutes**

Minutes postponed until next meeting.

**Bills**

Mayor Duke makes a motion to pay the bills. McCort makes the motion. Kilgore seconds. Vote: All AYEs

**Motion to Read All Ordinances and Resolutions by Title Only**

Mayor Duke makes a motion to pay the read all ordinances and resolutions by title only. Romes makes the motion. McCort seconds. Vote: All AYEs

**Mayor's Update**

- The sign has been paid for and is ready for scheduling to put it in.
- Bills have gone unpaid and are now being corrected, as well as problems with the payroll. State auditors are coming in to assist in consulting for this. Until all the bills are paid, the true amount in the contingency fund (current 2.9 million) is unknown.

**VA REPORT**

- Gehring's Tavern's St.Patrick's day reversion to The Unicorn was a success.
- The state auditor consulting team is coming in to help reconcile the books.
- The Village are in violation with the state auditors due to an end-of-year report for 2025 not being written up and are applying for an extension that was missed by the previous treasurer. The Village has a 50/50 shot of success.
- After spring break the village is meeting with Midview's interim supervisor to discuss the creation of a path or trailhead to the school from Grafton.
- Several businesses have applied for the community development block grant.

**Other Village Officials**

*Romes* – A farmer's market on Commerce on the lefthand side was a success. More will be planned for the future in April.

**POLICE**

- Been contacting the Lorain County JVS for the mechanic program and is asking permission to donate the old cruise, Ford Taurus, for them to work with. As it was already approved for disposal, this was granted without a vote.
- Chief Clark is asked if he still has the ambulance. When asked what is wrong with it, it is explained it does not have AC, no door separating cab from passenger portion, and a seal on the diesel line is dry and leaking. There is a question whether it can be given to Utility. Bills over 230 days old

**REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

*Mr. Denby* – Opening lines of communication to possibly sell his 20 acre property when he retires.

*Leo Guggenbiller* – Says that questions about the sign have been answered. Also questions whether we will incur a fine because of the end of year report being late. He is informed that late fees incurred for this lapse will be taken from the official’s own pocket. The Village is pursuing an extension with a 50% shot of success. Bills at least 230 days of are paid off and many other outstanding accounts are being brought into security.

*Rose Street* – Easter Bunny confirmed for the Village of Grafton on April 4<sup>th</sup> with 0-5 year olds egg hunt is at 11:30 and the 6-10 year old egg hunt is at 12:30 at North Park.

**MOTIONS**

*MOTION TO BEGIN THE BIDDING PROCESS FOR PHASE III OF THE NOVAK ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT*

Motion to pass made by Councilman Kilgore. Seconded by Councilman Romes. Vote: All AYEs

*THE BIDDING PROCESS FOR THE CLEVELAND, BARCHARD ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT*

Motion to pass made by Councilman McCort. Seconded by Councilman Kilgore. Vote: All AYEs

*MOTION TO APPOINT DIANNA WALSH TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS*

Motion to pass made by Councilman Romes. Seconded by Councilman Campbell. Vote: All AYEs

*MOTION TO APPOINT NOLAN TRUE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION*

Motion to pass made by Councilman Kilgore. Seconded by Councilman Romes. Vote: All AYEs

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to enter executive session made by Councilman Kilgore. Seconded by Councilman Campbell. Vote: All AYEs

Motion to leave executive session made by Councilman Romes. Seconded by Councilman McCort. Vote: All AYES

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Romes. Seconded by Councilman Kilgore. Vote: All AYES